

SUBJECT: Adoption of March 19-20, 2007 Agenda

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt the March 19-20, 2007 agenda as presented and/or amended.

SUBJECT: Approval of January 22-23, 2007 Meeting and Public Hearing Minutes

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve the January 22-23, 2006 meeting and public hearing minutes as written and/or amended.

SUBJECT: What's Happening with School Wellness Policies

BACKGROUND: Schools participating in the National School Lunch Program or the Special Milk Program were required by federal regulation to have a wellness policy in place by first day 2007 school year. The State Board of Education adopted a Model Wellness Policy in fall 2005 that schools were encouraged to use as a starting place for their own policy development. Many workshops and presentations have been made regarding the wellness policy requirement and the Model Wellness Policy. A survey is being completed of schools to determine how the wellness policies are progressing, how the model policy was used, etc., Results of that survey will be presented at the March board meeting.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: None – Providing information.

SUBJECT: Status of District Health and Physical Education Graduation Requirements

BACKGROUND: We are currently surveying schools in regard to Health and Physical Education graduation requirements and my report will summarize the results of this survey which focuses on the district's responses in regard to previous requirements, changes that have been implemented in schools since it went into effect and future plans to address district Health and Physical Education graduation requirements.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: No action required – informational item only.

SUBJECT: High School Graduation Requirements Update

BACKGROUND: The Board will hear information regarding a survey regarding high school math offerings. Discussion of the new graduation requirements will follow.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: No action required – informational item only.

SUBJECT: First Reading 24:43:08 Waivers Proposal and Administrative Rules Revision

BACKGROUND: In the fall of 2006, a discussion was started concerning the use of waivers for school districts. Per the board's request, the Department of Education has created new policy in this area and has edited Administrative Rule to direct that policy.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: The department requests that the Board of Education move these rules to a public hearing.

SUBJECT: First Reading 24:43:11 Test Out Proposal and Administrative Rules Revision

BACKGROUND: In January of 2007, a discussion was started concerning the use of test out for school districts to grant high school credit. Per the board's request, the Department of Education has created new policy in this area and has edited Administrative Rule to direct that policy.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: The department requests that the Board of Education move these rules to a public hearing.

SUBJECT: Board of Regents update

BACKGROUND: Sam Gingerich, Chief Academic Officer for the Board of Regents will update the board on higher education issues.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: No action required – informational item only.

AGENDA ITEM: 9.0

SUBJECT: Presentation on University of South Dakota's teacher preparation program.

BACKGROUND: Linda Reetz, Acting Dean of Education, University of South Dakota will give a presentation on University of South Dakota's teacher preparation program.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: No action required – informational item only.

AGENDA ITEM: 10.0

SUBJECT: Secretary Melmer's Report

BACKGROUND: The Secretary's report will consist of a sharing of information relating to the work of the Secretary's office as it relates to the Board of Education.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: No action required - informational item only

AGENDA ITEM: 18.0

SUBJECT: Executive Session for Lawsuit

BACKGROUND: Update on Lawsuit

RECOMMENDED ACTION: No action required - informational item only

SUBJECT: Public Hearing – Revised K-12 Reading / Language Arts Content Standards

BACKGROUND: The revised K-12 reading/language arts content standards were opened for public comment at the November 16, 2006, board meeting. At that time, the document was posted on-line and announcements were posted through the Administrative Memo and various list serves for administrators and educators.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: The Department of Education requests board approval of the revised K-12 reading / language arts content standards.

SUBJECT: Public Hearing – Social Studies Alternate Content Standards and Achievement Descriptors

BACKGROUND: In 2004 - 2005, the Alternate Content Standards and Achievement Descriptors for reading and math were created, approved, and implemented for students with significant cognitive disabilities. In January 2006, the Alternate Content Standards for Science were approved and implemented.

Special Education Programs is continuing to write alternate content standards to correspond with the general education core content standards. Teacher workgroups of general classroom teachers and special educators met in August 2006 to develop the Social Studies Alternate Content Standards and Achievement Descriptors at each of the specific grade levels, K–12.

The Social Studies Alternate Content Standards and Achievement Descriptors were posted on the Department of Education webpage for public comment on December 6, 2006 and remained open until January 18, 2007. Notices for comment were sent out on the Special Education listserv, Special Education Alternate listserv, and to special education directors. During the public comment period, eight comments were received which either supported the standards or recommended some grammar corrections or a change in language to support universal design (for example: changing “view pictures” to “explore representations” which could include pictures, video, audio, models...). No objections to board approval were made.

Approval of the alternate content standards for social studies will allow teachers to implement the standards for the 2007-2008 school year. This approval allows for the inclusion of students with significant cognitive disabilities to participate in the alternate content standards aligned to the general content standards.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: The department requests board approval of the Social Studies Alternate Content Standards and Achievement Descriptors.

SUBJECT: Public Hearing Administrative Rule 24:43:01:01 (18) - Definition of “Fine arts courses”

BACKGROUND: South Dakota Administrative Rule 24:43 establishes the definitions of certain areas. The definition of “fine arts courses” in Administrative Rule was somewhat narrow, and did not allow for performing arts to be considered a “fine art”. Adding the term “performing arts” to this definition allows the performing arts to be counted as a “fine art” for high school credit. It also allows the Department of Education to be in agreement with the South Dakota Board of Regents’ definition of “fine arts courses” as defined for the South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: The Department of Education requests Board approval of 24:43:01:01 (18) Definition of “Fine arts courses.”

SUBJECT: Public Hearing and Final Adoption of rules change for 24:05 Special Education

BACKGROUND: August 14, 2007 the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA 2004) final rules came out in the federal register. They went into effect 60 days later. In order for the South Dakota Department of Education, Special Education Programs to continue to receive federal funding we are required to align our state rules to the federal rules. We had to make an assurance to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) last year in order to receive our funding that we would have this completed by June 30, 2007. Our application for this year is due May 4, 2007 and we need to include with that application our assurance that we completed the rules alignment and public comment and public hearing process.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: We need to have the final public hearing at the board meeting and would like to have approval of the ARSD Chapter 24:05.

SUBJECT: Public Hearing: 24:15:02:08 State Certification Exam Requirements

BACKGROUND: After a year of implementation of Praxis testing, there have been a number of issues that have surfaced that need to be addressed.

- 1) There are excessive requirements for out-of-state applicants. In addition to the Human Relations and Indian Studies, individuals must test in all content areas as well as taking the Principles of Teaching and Learning. This test measures pedagogy skills. This test is required for teachers new to the profession who do not have previous teaching experience, however, it seems inappropriate for those that have previous experience. Elimination of this requirement would be one less test for existing out of state applicants.
- 2) The requirement for teachers to test in all content areas after letting their certificate lapse is often extremely burdensome. There are numerous reasons that teachers allow their certificates to lapse, that may include leaving the state to teach elsewhere and then returning, motherhood, change of profession, etc. The cost and time is often overwhelming. Currently, teachers are given the option to sign off for the removal of the endorsements or they are given a year to test.

The proposed rule changes would eliminate both the requirement for pedagogy testing for existing teachers and eliminate the requirement that teachers test in all content areas after allowing their certificate to lapse.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Request approval of revisions to **24:15:02:08 . State certification exam requirements**

SUBJECT: Technical Institute Report – Mark Wilson / TI Presidents

BACKGROUND: The Board, the department, Lake Area Technical Institute, Mitchell Technical Institute, Southeast Technical Institute, and Western Dakota Technical Institute will discuss and review budget information, program enrollment report, approval of new programs, and tuition rates for 2007-2008.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

SUBJECT: Date and Time of Next Meeting

BACKGROUND: The next regularly scheduled meeting is May 21-22 at Sullivan Health Center, Room 243, Southeast Technical Institute, Sioux Falls, SD

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Confirm the next scheduled meeting date.